



## Prairie Day at Shaw Nature Reserve

"Prairie matters because here are the roots of our very identity in this part of the world," writes Doug Ladd, director of conservation science for The Nature Conservancy of Missouri and author of *Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers*. "It defines us as a people and honors our history and heritage." Before European settlement, the Greater St. Louis area was a mosaic of prairie, woodland and wetland. Now you can take a step back in time and explore what life was like on the great American prairie. Come to Prairie Day at Shaw Nature Reserve on Saturday, September 17.

Shaw Nature Reserve's 250-acre tall grass prairie provides an authentic backdrop for the day's cultural festivities. Prairie Day at Shaw Nature Reserve is a fun-filled family event that portrays life on the prairie. Interact with early settlers and step inside an authentic sod house or teepee. Learn how to make arrowheads and try throwing a tomahawk or atlatl. Play pioneer games, talk to a mountain man and take a wagon ride. Listen to storytellers and traditional folk musicians, and watch as a blacksmith demonstrates skills from days gone by. Basket weavers, quilters and artists will create and display traditional art pieces. Kids can participate to earn wooden nickels to spend for prizes at the trading post!

Find out about the plants and animals of the Great Plains. Learn how Native Americans and pioneers used native edible and medicinal plants. Take a guided hike with a naturalist to learn about the prairie and its unique natural characteristics. Learn how to attract fun-to-watch wildlife by including native plants in your landscape.

Enjoy bison burgers and a variety of homemade baked goods. Food and soft drinks will be available for purchase, along with native plants and authentic crafts.

Activities run from 10 a.m.—4 p.m., Saturday, September 17, 2016. No registration necessary. Event admission is \$6 for adults, \$2 for children (ages 15 and under) and \$3 for Missouri Botanical Garden members. Prairie Day is sponsored by the

Missouri Department of Conservation and Shaw Nature Reserve, a division of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Shaw Nature Reserve is located on the south side of Interstate 44 at exit #253 in Gray Summit, MO (less than 10 miles west of the Six Flags exit). For more information, visit [www.shawnature.org](http://www.shawnature.org) or call (636) 451-3512 for more information.

*By SAM FAITH, MDC education consultant*



Kids gather around the campfire outside a sod house as a buffalo hunter tells about life on the prairie.

To save paper, sign up to receive a direct link on-line to Conservation Connections by visiting [www.mdc.mo.gov/govdelivery](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/govdelivery). Enter your email and subscribe to "News, Events and Newsletters - St. Louis Region."

# Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • <http://mdc.mo.gov/HengesRange>



From the east/St. Louis

I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance.

From the west/Eureka

I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

## **HOURS:**

April 1 – November 30

Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Friday and Sunday: 10 a.m. –4:30 p.m.

December 1–March 31

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email **[henges.range@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:henges.range@mdc.mo.gov)** with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Reservations are required for ALL programs. To register, call (636) 938-9548 ext. 0 or email [henges.range@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:henges.range@mdc.mo.gov)

## **Beginning Handgun**

Sept 1 • Thursday • 6–9 p.m.  
(Ages 16 and up)

This program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We start in the classroom then move to the range for a live-fire session. Equipment and ammunition will be provided. You may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the live-fire session. (Ages 16–18 must be accompanied by an adult) (Reservations begin Aug 18.)

## **Beginning Archery**

Sept 8 • Thursday • 6–9 p.m.  
(Families, fourth grade and up)

Learn the fundamentals of shooting the bow and arrow based on the Missouri National Archery in the School Program (MoNASP). This is a fun program for the family, ages fourth grade and up. All equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin Aug 25.)

## **Beginning Trap Shooting**

Sept 15 • Thursday • 6–9 p.m.  
(Experienced shotgun shooters, ages 16 and up)

Learn the basics of trapshooting by covering appropriate guns, ammunition, rules of the game, etiquette on the field, and shoot a round for score. Shotguns, ammunition and safety equipment will be provided, or you may bring your own 12 or 20 gauge shotgun. (Reservations begin Sept 1.)

## **Beginning Atlatl**

Sept 17 • Saturday • 8–9:30 a.m.  
(Ages 11 and up)

Come join our experts and learn the art of atlatl. The atlatl predates the bow and arrow and in 2010 became a legal method of harvesting deer in Missouri. Ages 11–15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin Sept 3.)

## **Firearm Maintenance**

Sept 22 • Thursday • 6–9 p.m.  
(Ages 11 and up)

This classroom program includes general care and maintenance of various types of firearms including rifle, shotgun and handgun. If you are not familiar or comfortable with cleaning and maintaining firearms, this informative and educational introduction is for you. All equipment will be provided. (Reservations begin Sept 8.)

## **Youth .22 Rifle**

Sept 24 • Saturday • 8–9:30 a.m.  
(Ages 9–15)

Interested young people who have never had experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in a Saturday morning session learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 rimfire rifles. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin Sept 10.)

*Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.*

# Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • <http://mdc.mo.gov/BuschRange>

## Intro to Deer Calling

Sept 1 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

This is the time of year to start brushing up on your deer calling skills. This class offers the opportunity to understand how deer communicate. Learn how to make the calls that will attract deer closer to your stand, blind, or viewing platform. We will discuss the four basic deer calls that can be used during the time of the rut. Bring a notebook, a pen and any calls you may have. This class will be held in the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin Aug 1.)

## Beginning Atlatl

Sept 10 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–noon

(Ages 11 and up)

Come join our experts and learn the art of atlatl. We will meet in the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin Aug 10.)

## Firearm Care and Cleaning

Sept 14 • Wednesday • 6–9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

After the hunt, or a day at the range, do you know how to properly clean your firearm? Join our experts as they go over cleaning the different firearm actions, equipment needed, materials, and techniques to keep your firearm in top condition. This program will meet in the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin Aug 15.)

## Basic Archery

Sept 17 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–noon

(Ages 9 and up)

This program provides students with an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely participate in this fun and rewarding outdoor activity. All equipment and materials will be provided for this class. Our instructors will help all participants develop their archery skills as we cover types of bows, parts of the bow and arrow, proper stance, grip, form, release, and other important tips and techniques. Class will meet in the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin Aug 18.)

## Shotshell Reloading

Sept 21 • Wednesday • 6–9 p.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Here is your opportunity to learn the inexpensive process of reloading shotgun shells using simple equipment. The technique is easy and will save you money over the cost of factory ammunition. This is a hands-on learning class; we'll produce quality shot shells with low-cost equipment. We will cover equipment, materials, and techniques used to reload shot shell. This class will be held at the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms. (Reservations begin Aug 22.)

*Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.*



Due to the range closure, all Busch Range programs will be held at the Busch Conservation Area classrooms in the St. Louis Regional Office unless otherwise noted.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Map and Compass

Sept 24 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–noon

(Ages 11 and up)

In today's world of electronic gadgets, many people don't know this easy skill which requires no batteries or satellite signal. This is a skill set to know if you are looking for a particular location or become lost in the outdoors. This program will teach you how to properly read maps and use a compass. We will start in the Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classrooms and then proceed outside to see if you can find some marked locations without the use of today's modern conveniences. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin Aug 25.)



*Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.*



# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • <http://mdc.mo.gov/powdervalley>



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

## HOURS:

Building: Tuesday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Area: Daily: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. DST  
8 a.m.–6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## You and Me under the Canopy

Sept 7 • Wednesday • 10–11 a.m.

(Ages 2–6)

Come see the topic we are exploring this month. Families, meet in the nature center lobby for a “nature” adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won’t be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the tree canopy. Siblings are welcome. (In case of inclement weather the program will be indoors and may be shortened.) (Reservations begin Aug 23.)

## Acorn to Oak Tree

Sept 8 • Thursday • 10–11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3–6)

Isn’t it amazing that one tiny acorn can grow into such an enormous oak tree? Join us as we investigate the life of the oak tree and its importance in the forest. Dress for the weather, because we will also go for a hike to search for these trees – from acorn to oak! We will have a story and a craft, too. (Reservations begin Aug 25.)

## Magnificent Monarchs

Sept 8 • Thursday • 10 a.m.–noon

(Ages 7–12)

Join the fun as we celebrate the Monarch butterfly with games, crafts, and ways to attract them. Learn about the magnificent migration and the magical lifestyle of this dainty insect. (Reservations begin Aug 24.)



## MDC Wild Webcast: Be Bear Aware

Sept 8 • Thursday • 2–3 p.m.

(All ages)

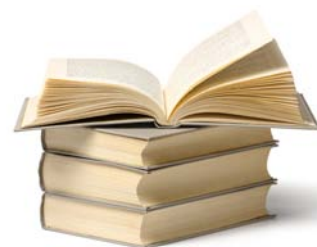
Join the webcast at Powder Valley and learn about black bears. Presenters Jeff Beringer, resource scientist, and Alan Leary, wildlife management coordinator, will discuss bears in Missouri and how you can *Be Bear Aware*. No reservations required.

## Nature’s Nook Book Club for Adults

Sept 9 • Friday • 10–11:30 a.m.

(Adults)

Our book club meets every other month to discuss an important work of fiction or non-fiction related to the natural world. *Grandma Gatewood’s Walk*, by Ben Montgomery, is an inspiring story of the woman who saved the Appalachian Trail, at 67 years old! Start reading, and we will see you soon! (Reservations begin Aug 26.)



## Leaping Lizards

Sept 20 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 6 and up)

What’s that rustling sound in the leaves? Look around. If the noise isn’t a squirrel hunting nuts or a robin hunting worms, then most likely it’s a lizard scuttling away from you! If you walk quietly and look carefully, you may see other lizards sunning themselves on rocks or fence posts. Do you want to know more about them? What kind did you see? What do they eat? Can lizards really lose their tails? Have fun learning about lizards with activities and crafts. (Reservations begin Sept 6.)

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# Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • <http://mdc.mo.gov/powdervalley>

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## Stick, Prick, Sting, or Bite

Sept 24 • Saturday • 9:30–11:30 a.m.

*(Families, ages 7 and up)*

Have you ever walked through the forest and been stung by stinging nettles, bitten by a mosquito, or pricked by a thorn? Join the Naturalists as we discover, and learn how to avoid, the plants and animals that stick, prick, sting, and bite. (Reservations begin Sept 9.)

*Save the dates*

*25 Years of Serving Nature and You*

*Oct 21 • Friday • 7 p.m.*

*Oct 22 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–3 p.m.*

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center is celebrating 25 years of *Serving Nature and You* with events Friday evening, October 21, and more fun activities on Saturday, October 22. See details in the October Conservation Connections Newsletter.

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## Powder Valley Hallway Exhibit *Society of Independent Artists*

For the past 75 years the Society of Independent Artists has provided an avenue for the promotion of fellowship through monthly meetings and congenial competition among its artists. Several times a year members exhibit watercolor, acrylic, and oil paintings at locations around the St. Louis area.

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## Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112



Our office is moving! While the move is underway, please call Columbia Bottom Conservation Area for reservations for programs in Forest Park. Columbia Bottom Conservation Area is open from 8 am-5 pm, Wednesday through Sunday. 314-877-6014

### One Fish, Two Fish, Old Fish, New Fish

Sept 29 • Thursday • 10 a.m.–noon

*(Ages 3–5 with adult helper)*

Did the young ones miss out on your fishing trip this summer? Afraid they'd tangle the line? Meet up with us as we introduce fishing, poles, worms, and fish to your future fishermen and women. Adults will have a chance to work one on one with their preschooler as they experience "fishing" for the first time.

Participants should dress for the outdoors and bring a water bottle. This program meets at the Forest Park Hatchery and Educational Fishing Lakes in Forest Park. (Reservations begin Sept 1.)



### Catchin' Some Fun: Fishing for People with Disabilities

Sept 17 • Saturday • 1–3 p.m.

*(Individuals with Disabilities, ages 7 and up)*

Enjoy learning to cast, catch fish, and take fish off the hook...the program is Catch and Release! Fishing poles and bait will be provided and the entire program will be outdoors, so please dress for the weather. Participants should be accompanied by one support person please. Get "hooked" on this popular sport! The program will meet at the Forest Park Hatchery and Educational Fishing Lakes. A map will be sent to participants. (Reservations begin Sept 1.)



# Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • <http://mdc.mo.gov/ColumbiaBottom>



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

## **HOURS:**

Building: Wednesday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

*Missourians care about conserving forest, fish, and wildlife.*

## **Autumn Senior Picnic**

Sept 13 • Tuesday • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

*(Senior adults)*

Visit a treasure in your own back yard for a picnic. Look for Monarch butterflies visiting milkweed and other native plants as they continue their southward migration. We will discuss the role of pollinators in creating and maintaining a prairie, and visit the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. Our fall adventure will include some light walking with easy access to all the areas we visit. Bring a sack lunch to eat in one of our pavilions. Water and dessert will be provided. (Reservations begin Aug 24.)

## **Harvest Moon over the Confluence Photo Op**

Sept 16 • Friday • 6:30–8:30 p.m.

*(All ages)*

The gold and red of the setting sun lights up the fields and prairies of Columbia Bottom. At the same time the rising Harvest Moon casts its cool blue light on the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Bring your camera to capture both of these events in a late summer evening. Meet at lot "M" about 4 1/2 miles from the entrance gate. (Reservations begin Aug 31.)

## **The Bear Necessities for Being Bear Aware**

Sept 22 • Thursday • 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

*(Families)*

Black bears are Missouri's largest omnivore and are making a comeback in our state. Many people have questions about black bears. What makes black bears different from other bears? What does it take to hike and camp with them? Come learn the bear necessities about sharing bear country with its wild inhabitants. (Reservations begin Sept 8.)





# August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • <http://mdc.mo.gov/busch>

## LaBarque Creek Hike

Sept 10 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

*(Adults only)*

Join us for a 3 mile hike on one of our newest Conservation Areas, LaBarque Creek. This area has been designated a Missouri Natural Area. We will see LaBarque Creek for which the area is named and then hike to the highest point in the area before returning to the parking lot. We will visit several small sandstone glades and also some sandstone outcrops that have been exposed by intermittent streams. The hike is considered difficult due to the elevation change. (Reservations begin Aug 26.)



## Monarch Tagging

Sept 12 • Monday • 9 a.m.–noon

*(Ages 8–adult)*

Monarchs are migrating through our area! Drop in and become a citizen scientist. Learn about flight patterns, Monarch behavior, proper netting techniques, and hopefully, tag a few in an effort to track their Southern flight. We will meet on the side of the Weldon Spring Interpretive Center, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, Missouri 63304 (Reservations begin Sept 1.)



## Monarch Tagging

Sept 14 • Wednesday • 9 a.m.–noon

*(Ages 8–Adult)*

Monarchs are migrating through our area! Drop in and become a citizen scientist. Learn about flight patterns, Monarch behavior, proper netting techniques, and hopefully, tag a few in an effort to track their Southern flight. We will meet on the side of the Weldon Spring Interpretive Center, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, Missouri 63304 (Reservations begin Sept 1.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

### HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m.–10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Monarch Tagging

Sept 17 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–noon

*(Ages 8–adult)*

Monarchs are migrating through our area! Drop in and become a citizen scientist. Learn about flight patterns, Monarch behavior, proper netting techniques, and hopefully, tag a few in an effort to track their Southern flight. We will meet at the Busch pavilion. (Reservations begin Sept 1.)

# Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • <http://mdc.mo.gov/rockwoods>



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

## HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

## Volunteer Milestones

Pat Burrell-Standley	1,500 hours
Pat McCoy	400 hours

## Destination Hike:

### Hughes Mountain and Valley View Glades Natural Areas

Sept 24 • Saturday • 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Discover the beauty of Missouri glades. Explore two different kinds of glades and what makes them unique. Bring water, lunch, and sun protection. We will be hiking 4 – 5 miles total. Meet at Rockwoods Reservation at 8:30 a.m. to carpool, or meet at Hughes Mountain NA, near Potosi, MO, at 10 a.m. Valley View Glades Nature Area is near Hillsboro, Missouri. (Reservations begin Sept 9.)

Top: Hughes Mountain Natural Area

Photo courtesy of Judy Currie.

Bottom: Valley View Glades Natural Area



## Turtles for Tots

Sept 26 • Monday • 10:30–11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3–5)

Get to know the turtles of Missouri. We'll gather up for story time and construct a craft. Afterwards, children will have the opportunity to meet and touch living turtles. (Reservations begin Sept 12.)

*We help people discover nature. There are over 2.2 million wildlife watchers in Missouri.*